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original document. If we needed proof of this, we could find it in his appendices, where he increases our knowledge of the character and achievement of Mlle de Gournay by listing the various editions of her writings, by republishing the text of her "autoportrait," by showing her influence in the Low Countries and the respect in which she was held in Italy, and finally by demonstrating the early popularity of Montaigne's *Essays*, which must have been partly due to the assiduous labors of his chosen editor. The only fault I find with these appendices is that their addition to a volume already composed of three separate essays deprives the book of a unity that might have been attained by a larger central treatise, into which could have been incorporated the facts now presented without proper coordination.

I conclude, then, that M. Schiff has made public some details hitherto overlooked concerning the life and works of Mlle de Gournay, that, despite a certain lack of unity in his volume, he helps to renew interest in an unusual personality, reprints three of her smaller works in convenient and scholarly form, suggests various ideas, which might, if sufficiently developed, have led to important results. But he scatters his energies in too many directions, he has not enough that is new in fact or critical estimate to make his book a definitive treatment of Marie de Gournay, and at the same time he does not sufficiently study her rôle of feminist to make that the central portion of his work. I hope that he has already felt the force of this rather obvious criticism, and that he intends to publish hereafter either a complete study of Mlle de Gournay or an exhaustive consideration of her position in the modern movement towards the equality of the sexes.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Covacle, NOT *conacle*

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—Stratmann-Bradley's *Middle-English Dictionary* gives:

Canacle, *conacle*, sb.? mistake for *covercle*; lid of a cup. A. P. 1461, 1515. The *NED*. presumes that *canacle*, *conacle* [of unknown derivation and meaning] is 'a cup.'

The word has been recorded only in the two instances of *E. E. Allit. Poems*, edited by Morris.

I have not seen the MS. and do not know how far *a* and *o* are kept distinct. *Laued* for *loued* in the printed text, p. 85, l. 1703, looks suspicious. At any rate, I take it for granted that *n* and *u* are written alike. The editor is at a loss about several words (see pp. 11, 40, 50, 56, 82), and it is beyond all probability that a distinction which is rather exceptional with fifteenth century scribes should be observed in a MS. that, according to the preface, is written in a small, sharp, irregular character . . . often difficult to read.

Couacle, which, of course, might just as well be read *conacle*, also occurs in *Partonope of Blois*, Add. MS. 35,288, Brit. Mus. 1f. 13b. (now at press; ll. 1076-78):

Thys cuppe was of safer flyne,
Hyt moste nedes showe well wyne.
þe couacle was of Rube redde.

The last line runs in the French text, ed. Crapelet, l. 1025:

Li covercles est d'un rubi.

There are French variants of *covercle* without *r* (see the *Complément* of Godefroy), but the English form rather represents an independent change from *covacle* to *covacle*, due to the analogy of the frequent nouns in *-acle*.

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A NOTE ON 'A BRITISH ICARUS'

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—In the December (1910) issue of *Modern Language Notes*, Professor J. M. Hart, in his interesting communication, entitled, *A British Icarus*, quotes from Geoffrey of Monmouth as follows: "This Prince (Bladud) was a very ingenious man, and taught necromancy in his kingdom, nor did he leave off pursuing his magical operations, till he attempted to fly to the upper region of the air with wings which he had prepared, and fell down upon the temple of Apollo, in the city of Trinovantum, where he was dashed to pieces." This is evidently the source of the following passage in Milton's *History of Britain*, Bk. 1: "He (Bladud) was a man of great invention, and taught Necromancy: till having made him Wings to fly, he fell down upon the Temple of Apollo in Trinovant, and so dy'd." Such a passage is read with interest in connection with the following from the introductory portion of the same book: "Nevertheless there being